

Message Text

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INFO USLO PEKING

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AMEMBASSY TOKYO

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LIMDIS

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, FR, CH, CB

SUBJECT: ELYSEE DIPLOMATIC ADVISOR'S COMMENTS ON POMPIDOU

TRIP TO PRC

1. SUMMARY. RAIMOND SAID THAT IN PRESSING FRENCH TO RECOGNIZE SIHANOUK AND GRUNK AS LEGITIMATE CAMBODIAN GOVT, CHINESE NEVERTHELESS DISPLAYED LESS COMPLETE SUPPORT FOR SIHANOUK THAN PREVIOUSLY. WHILE STRESSING IMPORTANCE US TROOP PRESENCE IN EUROPE, RE ASIAN THEATRE CHOU SPOKE ONLY OF "DANGEROUS VACUUM" WHICH EVENTUAL US MILITARY WITHDRAWAL COULD CREATE IN SOME AREAS. CHOU SPOKE GENERALLY IN POSITIVE TERMS ABOUT JAPAN, WHILE COMMENTS ON SOVIETS WERE PREDICTABLE THOUGH MORE MODERATE THAN USUAL PRC PUBLIC PRONOUNCEMENTS. END SUMMARY.

2. IN COMMENTING ON PRESIDENT POMPIDOU'S TRIP TO CHINA, ELYSEE DIPLOMATIC ADVISOR RAIMOND (WHO ACCOMPANIED POMPIDOU) TOLD POL COUNS SEPTEMBER 27 THAT THERE HAD BEEN CONSIDERABLE
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DISCUSSION OF CAMBODIA DURING TALKS WITH CHOU-EN-LAI. RAMOND,

WHO PARTICIPATED IN THREE POMPIDOU-CHOU SESSIONS, SAID CHINESE HAD PRESSED FRENCH TO RECOGNIZE SIHANOUK AND GRUNK AS LEGITIMATE GOVERNMENT OF CAMBODIA. FRENCH STEADFASTLY REFUSED. RAIMOND WAS STRUCK, HOWEVER, BY CHANGE IN CHINESE ATTITUDE TOWARD SIHANOUK. PREVIOUSLY, CHINESE SUPPORT FOR SIHANOUK HAD SEEMED TOTAL. DURING MEETINGS WITH POMPIDOU, HOWEVER, PRC SUPPORT HAD DEFINITELY SEEMED LESS THAN COMPLETE. RAIMOND HAD IMPRESSION CHINESE CONTINUE TO BE CONCERNED LEST HANOI, THROUGH KHMER ROUGE, END UP CONTROLLING CAMBODIA. CHINESE SEEMED EQUALLY ANXIOUS TO EXCLUDE SOVIET INFLUENCE IN EVENTUAL CAMBODIAN SETTLEMENT. RAIMOND SAID IT WAS NEVER CLEAR FROM DISCUSSIONS HOW CHINESE INTEND TO TRANSLATE THEIR SUPPORT FOR SIHANOUK INTO PRACTICAL MEANS FOR ACHIEVING THEIR GOAL.

3. RAIMOND SAID THAT IN AN EARLY SESSION WITH POMPIDOU, CHOU-EN-LAI TREATED FRENCH TO FASCINATING REVIEW OF EVOLUTION CHINESE FOREIGN POLICY SINCE 1949. THROUGHOUT EXPOSITION, CHOU EMPHASIZED THE PEACEFUL, PASSIVE NATURE OF CHINESE DIPLOMACY, INCLUDING APPROPRIATE REFERENCES TO BANDUNG. IT HAD BEEN INTRIGUING IN THIS CONNECTION TO NOTE THAT IN CONTRAST WITH CHOU'S GENERALLY RELAXED, URBANE MOOD, HE BECAME VISIBLY EMBARRASSED WHILE GLOSSING OVER THE SINO-INDIAN CONFLICT, AND HURRIEDLY DEALT WITH THE CULTURAL REVOLUTION IN A PARENTHETICAL PHRASE.

4. COMMENTING ON PRC ATTITUDES TOWARD OTHER WORLD POWER CENTERS, RAIMOND SAID CHOU'S RELAXED REFERENCES TO THE US INDICATED CHINESE SATISFACTION WITH CURRENT STATE OF PRC-US RELATIONS. WHILE CHO SPOKE OF NECESSITY OF MAINTAINING US TROOPS IN EUROPE (FOR WELL-KNOWN CHINESE REASONS), WITH RESPECT TO US MILITARY PRESENCE IN ASIA HE WAS LESS EXPLICIT. IN LATTER CASE, HE CONFINED HIMSELF TO UNDERLINING "DANGEROUS VACUUM" WHICH COULD BE CREATED BY EVENTUAL WITHDRAWAL OF US MILITARY FROM ASIA. RAIMOND SAID CHOU WAS NOT CONCERNED WITH VACUUM BEING FILLED BY JAPAN. GENERALLY, CHOU SPOKE OF JAPAN IN POSITIVE TERMS. IT WAS OBVIOUS HE WAS CONCERNED ABOUT SOVIET UNION FILLING ANY ASIAN VACUUM. IN PRIVATE, CHOU'S COMMENTS ON USSR HAD BEEN REMARKABLY MODERATE AND BALANCED, COMPARED TO PUBLIC PRO-

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NOUNCEMENTS. THIS IS NOT TO SAY THAT CHOU DID NOT INSIST ON THE IMPORTANCE OF PRC VIGILANCE VIS-A-VIS POTENTIAL SOVIET MILITARY INTERVENTION. RAIMOND THOUGHT IT SIGNIFICANT, HOWEVER, THAT CHOU'S LANGUAGE LACKED THE STRIDENT EXAGGEATION OTHER CHINESE HAD USED WITH MEMBERS OF FRENCH DELEGATION AND FRENCH JOURNALISTS. RAIMOND CONCLUDED FROM THIS THAT STANDARD CHINESE "HYSTERIA" ABOUT USSR WAS PRIMARILY FOR DOMESTIC CONSUMPTION WITH PRC.

5. RAIMOND SAID FRENCH NEWS STORY DATED PEKING THAT APPEARED IN FRENCH PRESS DURING POMPIDOU VISIT TO CHINA, CONFIRMING THAT ANOTHER FRANCO-SOVIET SUMMIT WOULD OCCUR IN 1974, HAD BEEN DELIBERATELY PLANTED WITH A SELECTED FRENCH JOURNALIST BY FOREIGN MINISTER JOBERT. THE SOVIET REACTION PROVED THAT IT HAD HAD THE INTENDED EFFECT, SAID RAIMOND. THE DIFFERENCE IN EMPHASIS IN THE EUROPEAN PORTION OF THE JOINT COMMUNIQUE BETWEEN THE FRENCH "DETENTE" APPROACH AND THE CHINESE "CONSOLIDATION OF DEFENSE" APPROACH DID NOT MEAN THAT THERE HAD BEEN A SUBSTANTIAL DIFFERENCE OF OPINION OVER THE QUESTION OF NATIONAL DEFENSE EFFORTS BY SOVEREIGN COUNTRIES. THE FRENCH SIMPLY DID NOT WANT TO RISK HAVING A PUBLIC DOCUMENT DRAW THEM INTO THE MIDDLE OF THE SINO-SOVIET QUARREL. IN FACT, RAIMOND EMPHASIZED, THE DRAFTING OF THE JOINT COMMUNIQUE WAS QUITE BUSINESS-LIKE AND TOOK RELATIVELY LITTLE TIME.

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